

**DRAFT**



*a CHARACTER COUNTS! City*

**CITY OF GAITHERSBURG  
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2006  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING**

A meeting of the Historic District Commission was called to order at 8:18 p.m., Chair Katz presiding. Commissioners present: Alster, Marraffa, Schlichting and Sesma. Commissioner Absent: Edens. Staff present: City Manager Humpton, Planner Patula, City Attorney Borten and Administrative Assistant Stokes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deferred.

**POLICY DISCUSSION**

**Applicant: Claudio Joseph, Maryland Community Development Trust, LLC, 106 North Summit Avenue, Housely/Gaither House, Request for Demolition**

Planner Patula provided background on the Housely/Gaither House and stated that the request for demotion was filed by the applicant on December 23, 2005. She stated the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) visited the site on January 3, 2006, evaluated and made recommendations to the Historic District Commission on the criteria for historic significance. The HPAC recommended that the house meets the criteria in the City's Preservation of Historic Resources Ordinance, Section 24-226, and that it be designated as a local historic site. They further recommended that historic designation not hinder further development on the remainder of the site. Mrs. Patula added that the current residents are connected with the early founding Gaither family. She stated that the Commission has the option of directing the City Manager to issue the demolition permit or make a motion to conduct a public hearing to further discuss and receive additional information on the site.

Several Commissioners questioned relatives meeting the criteria regarding the significance of the founding families in the City, historic designation of the house, hindrance to the applicant for future development, and asked for a more thorough presentation. Chairman Katz and the Commissioners concurred following discussion that a joint public hearing be held before the Historic District Commission and Planning Commission, if possible, to move the application process forward more quickly. City Attorney Borten noted that a demolition permit, once applied, can be held for only six months by the City.

Motion was made by Commissioner Schlichting, seconded by Commissioner Sesma, directing the City Manager to withhold the demolition permit until further guidance can be given following a scheduled joint public hearing.

Vote: 5-0

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Historic District Commission, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Doris R. Stokes*

Administrative Assistant